Army to Detail Beret Case Today

Post 9/27/69

From News Dispatches

Details of the Army's case against six Green Beret officers accused of murdering a Vietnamese spy will be disclosed today in Saigon.

Sources close to the investigation in South Vietnam reported that the official charges accuse Capt. Robert Marasco, 27, of Bloomfield, N.J., of shooting Thai Khac Chuyen, who was identified by the Green Berets as a double agent for the North Vietnamese.

Col. Robert B. Rheault, 43, of Vineyard Haven, Mass., former commander of all Green Berets in Vietnam, is charged with "conspiring with Marasco to obtain a sack and chains needed to dispose of the body," according to the sources.

The Army is expected to contend that Chuyen's body was placed in a weighted sack and dumped into the South China Sea.

Charged with murder and conspiracy are Marasco; Rheault; Capt. Budge E. Williams, 27, of Athens, Ga.; Maj. Thomas C. Middleton Jr., 30, of Jefferson, S.C.; Maj. David E. Crew, 33, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and Capt. Leland J. Brumley, 26, of Duncan, Okla. A general court-martial is scheduled to open in about three weeks at U.S. Army headquarters in Longbinh.

There were these other developments yesterday:

• Guy Scott, attorney for Williams, submitted deposition notices to Secretary of the Army Stanley Resor and Central Intelligence Agency Director Richard Helms for their appearance Oct. 1 in Resor's office to give testimony in the case.

Scott's notices demand that the two officials produce a "top secret" Special Forces publication allegedly dealing with options to be considered in executing an agent and "all files and other references pertaining to the Special Forces unit B57, which was operating out of Nhatrang in the Republic of South Vietnam during the months of June, July and August, 1969."

Williams, in a letter that Scott made public, said his accusers are trying to destroy the U.S. Special Forces. "I know who the enemy is now and where he is," wrote Williams. "I am going to fight them with all my power. They are not going to make me knuckle under . . ."

• Four defense attorneys filed a motion in Longbinh asking President Nixon to dismiss all charges against the six officers. The motion, which charged "command influence" by Gen. Creighton W. Abrams, U.S. commander in Vitenam, requested that if Mr. Nixon would not order the charges dropped, he order the trials shifted to a civilian court.

• F. Lee Bailey, who will represent Marasco, said in a Boston news conference that the Army will be asked first to prove someone indeed was killed.